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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
AMIRI, NAHID	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/567,290	YEO, JEFFREY S.K.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nahid Amiri	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *2 Febaruary 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10 and 15-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) *11-14* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *2 Febaruary 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7/9/2007*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 18, line 3, "or each" should be deleted; and line 4, "metal. mesh" should be changed to --metal mesh--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

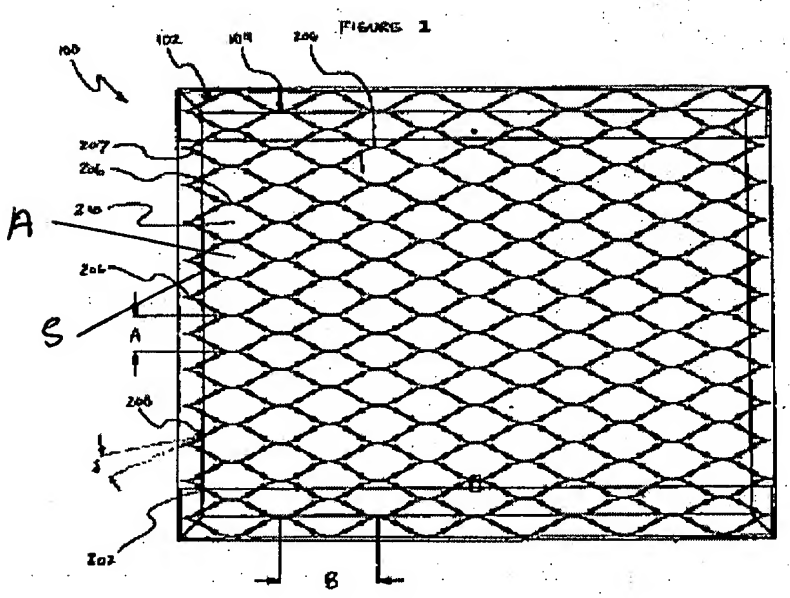
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, 15, 16, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 7,044,447 B2 Cuno et al.

With respect to claim 1, Cuno et al. disclose a security panel (100, Figs. 1, 7) comprising an expanded metal mesh (108), the mesh (108) having apertures (A) therethrough bounded by plurality of sides (S), at least one of said apertures (A) having at least one side (S) with a barbed structure (208), the barbed structure having at least one barb (208) extending in a plane of the panel (100) in towards another side (S) of said aperture (A). Cunot et al. do not disclose that the barbed structure is separate from side of the aperture. It is well known in the art to provide the barbed structure of a fence from separate pieces in order to replace the barbed due to damages. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the barbed structure separate from the side of aperture in order to replace and remove the barbed structure due to weather's damages, since applicant has not disclosed that specific solves any stated problem or is for any

particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with Cuno et al's invention.



With respect to claims 2 and 3, Cuno et al. disclose (Figs. 1, 7) that barbed structures (208) are affixed to all sides (S) of said at least one aperture (A); wherein the barbed structure (208) has a plurality of said barbs (208) extending in the plane of the panel (100) in towards another side (S) of said aperture (A).

With respect to claim 4, Cuno et al. disclose (Figs. 1, 7) that the barbed structure (208) comprises a plurality of barbed points (209) grouped in two, a first (209) and a second one (209) of said barbed points extending in opposite directions parallel with the corresponding side (S) of said aperture (9). Cuno et al. do not disclose that barbed points grouped in threes and the third one of said barbed points extending transversely away from the corresponding side of said aperture. It is well known in the art that the barbed structure comes with different number of barbed points for different use and purposes. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the barbed structure of Cuno et al. with more than two barbed points, since applicant has not disclosed that specific number of barbed points solves any stated problem

or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with Cuno et al's invention.

With respect to claim 5, Cuno et al. disclose (Figs. 1, 7) that the at least one barb (208) has a plurality of barbed points (209), each of said barbed points (209) extending towards another side (S) of said aperture (A).

With respect to claims 6-8, Cuno et al. disclose (Figs. 1, 7) that each side (S) of an aperture (A) is formed from an elongate strip of metal, each of said strips of metal being joined integrally to adjacent strips of metal at mesh nodes (8), the barbed structure (4) being affixed to just one corresponding strip of metal (6); wherein the barbed structure (208) is affixed to said one corresponding strip of metal at one or more points lying between said mesh nodes (206); and wherein the barbed structure (208) lies entirely between mesh nodes (206).

With respect to claim 15, Cuno et al. disclose a security fence (Figs. 1, 7) comprising at least two upright fence supports (F), and a security panel (110), said security panel (110) being supported by said fence supports (F).

With respect to claims 16, 17, and 19, Cuno et al. as advanced above for claims 1, 8, disclose an expanded metal mesh (108), the mesh (108) having apertures (A) therethrough bounded by plurality of sides (S), at least one of said apertures (A) having at least one side (S) to which is affixed a separate barbed structure (208), the barbed structure having at least one barb (208) extending in a plane of the panel (100) in towards another side (S) of said aperture (A); wherein the barbed structure (208) lies entirely between a pair of nodes (206) of the mesh. Cuno et al. do not disclose a method of forming a security panel. Since Cuno et al. have been shown to possess the structure of the panel, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this structure has been "provided".

Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuno et al. as applied to claims 1-3, 5-8 and 15 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 3,356,343 Taylor.

With respect to claims 9 and 20, Cuno et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the barbed structure (4) has a channel (12) with a complimentary shape to the corresponding strip of metal (6) to which the barbed structure (4) is affixed, the strip of metal (6) being seated in the channel (12) when the barbed structure (4) is affixed to the corresponding strip of metal (6); and wherein the barbed structure (4) has one or more tabs (24) which wrap around the corresponding strip of metal (6). Taylor teaches a barbed structure (Figs. 1, 12) having has a channel (53) with a complimentary shape to the corresponding strip of metal (12) to which the barbed structure (14) is affixed, to the corresponding strip of metal (12); and wherein the barbed structure (14) has one or more tabs (52) which wrap around the corresponding strip of metal (12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide the barbed structure of Cuno et al. with a channel to corresponds to the strip of metal and barbed structure has one tab as taught by Taylor in order to combine to conform a simple detent fastener by which a slat is readily secured to a fence strand by a single motion of slat across the strand.

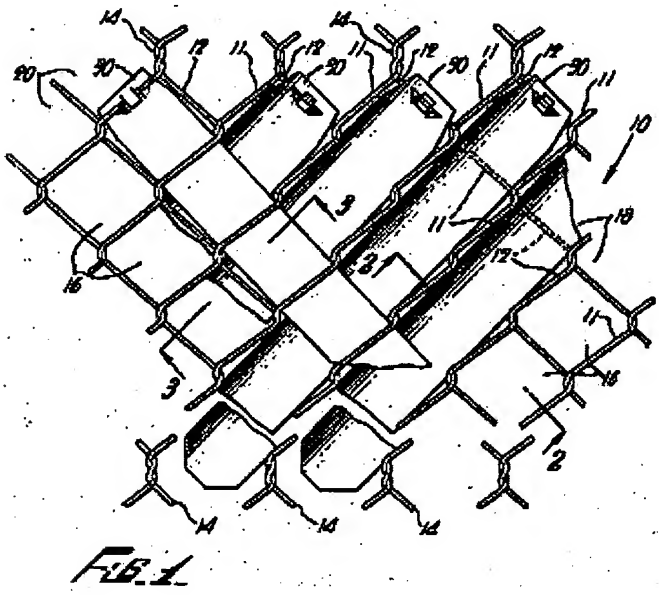


FIG. 1

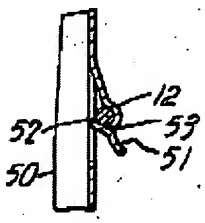


FIG. 12

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuno et al. as applied to claims 1-3, 5-8 and 15 above, and further in view of Taylor.

As to claim 18, lines 2-5, Cuno et al. and Taylor are advanced above in claim 9, disclose the barbed structure with at least one extending tab (52), and then wrapping the tab (24) around portions of the metal mesh (12) bounding the aperture to fix the barbed structure (14) to said side

of said aperture. Cuno et al. do not disclose a method of wrapping the tab around portions of the metal mesh bounding the aperture. However, it is noted that the only method steps recited merely provide wrapping the tab around portions of the metal mesh bounding the aperture and thus it appear that claim 9 is merely reciting the system under the guise of a "method". Since taylor has been shown to possess the structure of the tab, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this structure has been "provided".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claim 10, lines 1-2, the closest prior art Cuno et al. (US 7,044,447 B2) disclose the claimed connecting device with the exception of the each barb (14) has a corresponding base portion (18) that extends laterally away from said channel (12) in the plane of the panel (1).

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector device as disclosed by Cuno et al. (US 7,044,447 B2) to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior art of record US Patent No. 2,802,645 Rice; US Patent No. 3,913,889 Nugent et al.; US Patent No. 4,725,044 Cluff; US Patent No. 5,584,468; US Patent No. 197,757 Bestor; US Patent No. 5,074,529 Mainiero et al.; and US Patent No.4,666,129 Dobson; are cited to show a security panel with a metal mash and a barbed structure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
October 12, 2007

Daniel P Stodola

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